

Wild Norley

Think Global But Act Local

November and January

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No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds—
November! (from Thomas Hood's eponymous poem)

NO WEBSITE? THERE IS NOW!



I am very pleased that at long last our website is back - see Wild Norley.org, thanks to our Parish Council for funding this. The website together with our Facebook page will I hope enable Norleyans to further hone their skills in improving Norley's biodiversity and allow them to share their successes and wildlife tips. You will see included with this edition there is a Garden Survey form and

I hope you will fill one in, recording all the wonderful magical things that give us so much pleasure. This form is now also on our website and the results already form an important part of Norley's biodiversity "register".

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

We had our workday on 15th October. The Garden had only just begun to show a few signs of Thomas Hood's negations and the cyclamen still look wonderful. Anyway, engaged as we were in replanting daffodils, cleaning and refixing nest boxes meant that we were already in March next year.



There is still much to be done with a final mowing, more leaves raked up and put in the leaf mould cage. Next year we will spray part of it off and it will be resown with a meadow grass wildflower mix.

We intend as well to plant more lily of the valley, Her Late Majesty's favorite flower. "a token of thanks"

"That thrives between spire and tree,
whose brightness

Daffs now around WI tree

Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom."
- Floral Tribute by Simon Armitage.

WILDFLOWER MEMORIAL WALK

The Remembrance walk, when poppies are placed on all the graves and plaques, will start at St John's after the Service on Sunday 12th November.

The final words of Lynn Pegler's poignant poem The Voices of the Norley Fallen on the memorial tablet of our Tommy have become standing orders for all of us.

Yes, mourn our loss as you stroll the lanes
and smell the poppies red with blood.

Give thanks for your lives, the peace
we brought and fight each day

with warrior words for war to cease.

THE WASTE

A lot has happened since the pond was dug out and trees thinned to ensure that great crested newts can thrive here in the future. A frankly disgraceful planning decision to allow a development next to the Waste further reducing the GCNs habitat prompted our Parish Council to erect a fence alongside the Waste to prevent incursions from the builders, and only just in time too.

The construction of a path and the hard standing for a memorial bench has progressed but the award of a £1000 from our Ward Councillors, though very welcome, is less than a third of what is needed. I hope by the time you read this we will have got the funds, if not we'll be around with a begging bowl.

Jill West has donated a bench dedicated to the much loved and missed, Chris Proudfoot, who so tragically died in May last year. Roger Goulding of CWAC has provided a huge bag of a meadow mix of grass/wildflower seeds and more marginal seeds for the pond.

BREECH MOSS RESTORATION

The essential work to take out the trees in the centre should have taken place by the time you read this.

Restoring the "missing" culvert is still necessary but, as explained in previous articles, removing the trees will not



A new home



Nest builders
Ken and Neil

exacerbate the flooding; indeed it may help by allowing the area to dry out faster.

OTHER NEWS

Gazebank - I'm afraid a public meeting to progress will not take place until the New Year

Sandycroft Farm - CWAC is drawing up proposals and they should soon be ready for public consultation.

Hondslough Farm - NWG is taking an active interest in the Forestry Commission's proposals, see our Facebook entry ref <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/hondslough-farm-delamere-forest-extension/>

Next meeting of NWG: 5th December 2023 at 7.00 pm, the venue is not as yet fixed (See Notice Boards/Facebook). It's our AGM so we can review the last year and plan (we hope!) the year ahead. Oh yes, Merry Christmas everyone!!

wildnorley.org

facebook.com/wildnorley

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Norley Garden Wildlife Record Sheet

Location name: _____

Grid Ref. (or postcode) _____

Quarter in which you are recording (please tick)

Spring (March – April) ☐

Autumn (Sept. - Oct.) ☐

Is your garden small, medium or large? _____

Which of the following features do you have in your garden (please tick)

Trees ☐ pond ☐ hedge ☐ compost heap ☐ flowerbed ☐ lawn ☐

Other ☐ please state here _____

Do you use any chemicals (like pesticides or weed killers) in your garden? _____

If you buy compost, do you make sure it is peat free? _____

Which of the following have you seen in your garden (during this quarter)

Frogs ☐ grass snakes ☐ bats ☐ newts ☐ slow worms ☐ toads ☐

Foxes ☐ Hedgehog ☐ badgers ☐ Other wildlife (please list) _____

Please list any butterflies, or other insects, that you have seen: e.g. see Butterfly Conservation
[info@butterfly-conservation.org]



Which fairly common birds have you seen in your garden:

Blackbird ☐	Song Thrush ☐	Robin ☐	Wren ☐	Pigeon ☐	Collared Dove ☐
Duncock ☐	House Sparrow ☐	Blue Tit ☐	Great Tit ☐	Coal Tit ☐	Long Tailed Tit ☐
Magpie ☐	Jackdaw ☐	Chaffinch ☐	Greenfinch ☐	Goldfinch ☐	Nuthatch ☐

What other birds have you seen (in this quarter). Please say which species.

Tick any of the following that you provide for birds in your garden:

Food ☐ water ☐ bird boxes ☐ bat boxes ☐ owl boxes ☐

Are there any birds nesting in your garden? (Please say which species)

Replies by the end of May/Nov. please.

To The Stores or Sheila Hills at 15 School Bank